

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A spread illuminating apparatus for illuminating two objects, the apparatus comprising:

at least one light source;  
a light conductive plate having the at least one light source at an end surface thereof and defining first and second major surfaces from which light emitted from the at least one light source and introduced in the light conductive plate exits out respectively toward the two objects, to be illuminated wherein the two objects partially overlap each other with the light conductive plate located therebetween;

an optical sheet unit consisting of a diffuser sheet and a condenser sheet, and disposed on at least the second major surface so as to cover an entire area thereof; and  
a reflecting means having a smaller surface area than the second major surface, and disposed directly on top of the optical sheet unit.

2. (Original) A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the reflecting means is located so as to cover an area of the second major surface other than an area designated as a light exiting surface.

3. (Original) A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the diffuser sheet has a haze factor ranging from 85 to 95%.

4. (Original) A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the condenser sheet is composed of two optical films which each have a prism pattern with a serrated sectional configuration formed on a surface thereof opposite to a surface facing the light conductive plate, and which have their respective prism patterns oriented orthogonal to each other.

5. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein each optical film of the condenser sheet has a thickness ranging from 50 to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .
6. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the reflecting means has its reflectance gradually varying at a given area close to the area designated as a light exiting surface.
7. (Original) A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a deflecting means is disposed directly on top of the optical sheet unit on the second major surface so as to cover at least an area which is not covered by the reflecting means.
8. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein each optical film of the condenser sheet has a thickness ranging from 50 to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .
9. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the reflecting means has its reflectance gradually varying at a given area close to the area designated as a light exiting surface.